

REMARKS

The Examiner has restricted the prosecution of the present application to Group I (claims 42-50, 56-82), Group II (claims 42, 51-53) or Group III (claims 42, 54 and 55). Applicants confirm the election of the claims of Group I, without traverse. The Examiner has also requested that the Applicants elect a single disclosed species. Applicants elect the species pig.

Applicants assume the right to file a divisional patent application directed to any unclaimed subject matter including nuclear donor cells of tetraploid or unknown or other ploidy.

The Examiner has stated that one reason the inventions are distinct from each other is due to the fact that the previously presented claims had been disclosed in WO 98/39416 to Strelchenko *et al.*. Strelchenko *et al.* teaches the nuclear transfer of a fibroblast nucleus into an oocyte to form an embryo, followed by transfer of the embryo into a recipient to produce a fetus. Cells from the fetus are isolated and cultured and then used for a second round of nuclear transfer. The nucleus from a fetal cell is transferred into a second oocyte and the resultant embryo is placed into a recipient and a cloned calf is produced.

In contrast, the currently pending claims of the present invention are directed to a method of reconstituting an animal embryo by

- (i) transferring a donor nucleus from a somatic cell into a first recipient oocyte;
- (ii) removing the nucleus from the first recipient oocyte;
- (iii) either activating a second recipient oocyte or enucleating a fertilized zygote; and

Appl. No. 09/600.130

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Reply to Office Action of February 25, 2003

(iv) transferring the nucleus from the first recipient oocyte into the preactivated second recipient oocyte or the enucleated fertilized zygote.

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action mailed February 25, 2003. It is believed that this response places the application in condition for allowance. If there are any issues that can be resolved with an Examiner's Amendment or a telephone conference, a telephone call to the undersigned attorney at 404.572.3541 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sherry M. Knowles".

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